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TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – ST. ANNE'S
MATERNITY HOME**

We have completed a review of St. Anne's Maternity Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by St. Anne's Maternity Home, Inc. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

St. Anne's Maternity Home is a 102-bed facility, which provides care for pregnant and parenting girls, ages 11-19 who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, St. Anne's Maternity Home was providing services for 46 Los Angeles County DCFS teen mothers and their 32 children, 11 Los Angeles County Probation teen mothers and their eight children, one Orange County teen mother with her child, and one pregnant teen from Ventura County. St. Anne's Maternity Home is located in the First District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews with six children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to make repairs to its facility; provide the younger children with age appropriate play equipment and toys in the living units; maintain age appropriate and accessible physical recreational equipment for the older residents; provide younger children with age appropriate books; teach all residents daily living skills; and provide all residents the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children Services Group Home Ombudsman within 20 business days from the date of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:asl

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer
Tony Walker, President/CEO, St. Anne's Maternity Home
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
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**St. Anne's Maternity Home
St. Anne's Mother/Baby
155 No. Occidental Blvd.
Los Angeles, Ca 90026
Phone: (213) 381-2931
License No.: 191802087
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Six

Comments:

The St. Anne's Maternity Home Group Home is a large facility located in a residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block.

The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, the interior of the Group Home is in need of improvements.

Above the receptionist area in the lobby, the air conditioning vents and surrounding ceiling are dirty. Vertical slats are missing from the window blinds in one of the first floor hallways. In the first floor common area, the pad on the bench is stained. The second-story patio railings are low enough for a toddler to climb over, presenting a safety hazard.

Carpeting is stained in the second and third floor common areas; bedrooms number A302, B210, C315, C316; and the Learning Center.

The walls need repair in the first floor recreation room, the second floor "A" areas, bedrooms number A101, A102, A205, A206, C216, A305, C315, and C316.

In bedrooms number A101 and C315, the comforters are stained. In bedrooms number B209 and C313, there are broken and missing desk drawers. The drapes in bedroom number A302 are stained. In bedroom A305, there is graffiti writing on the closet door and a chair. In bedroom number B307, there is graffiti writing on the bulletin board.

There is limited play equipment in the living common area recreation rooms for the younger children. The Group Home does not maintain age appropriate and accessible physical recreational equipment for the older residents.

There are board games, TVs, VCRs, and arts and crafts supplies. There are books and resource materials, including computers with a variety of programs. However, there are very few age appropriate books for the younger children.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

1. St. Anne's Maternity Home Group Home management:

- a. **Clean the air conditioning vents and ceiling above the receptionist area in the lobby.**
- b. **Repair/replace the blinds in one of the first floor hallways.**
- c. **Clean/replace the stained pads on the bench in the first floor common area.**
- d. **Secure the second-story patio railings to ensure safety of the children.**
- e. **Clean/replace stained carpeting throughout the facility as needed.**
- f. **Repair/paint the bedroom and bathroom walls throughout the facility as needed.**
- g. **Clean/replace stained comforters in bedrooms number A101 and C315.**
- h. **Repair/replace the desk in bedrooms number B209 and C313.**
- i. **Clean/replace stained drapes in bedroom number A302.**
- j. **Remove graffiti writing from the closet and chair in bedroom number A305 and the bulletin board in bedroom number B307.**
- k. **Provide younger children with age appropriate play equipment and toys in the living units.**
- l. **Maintain age appropriate and accessible physical recreational equipment for the older residents.**
- m. **Provide younger children with age appropriate books.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Six

Comments:

Residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

Quarterly reports for residents are current, comprehensive, and appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.

Residents are provided with psychological testing, emotional and developmental counseling, and parenting training as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Six

Comments:

Residents are attending school. Their records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports. Two of the residents require and have current Individualized Educational Plans. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and parenting classes are provided. However, four of the residents are not participating in programs that teach daily living skills such

as cooking, food shopping, and budgeting.

Four of the six residents were not offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation programs as appropriate. Four of the five eligible residents were not participating in vocational training programs.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

Recommendations

2. St. Anne's Maternity Home Group Home management:

- a. Provide all residents with daily living skills training.**
- b. Provide all residents the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.**

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Six

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents with opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. Residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. Residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for seven case files

Comments:

Residents have current court authorizations for psychotropic medications. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Six

Comments:

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with most staff.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their placement workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Six

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.